(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to groom our travel sports into real charmers?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) National Tourism Policy 2002, recognizes the importance of domestic tourism, paricularly tourism connected with pilgrimage, and suggests it to be so designed that the infrastructure created under it serves as a backbone of international tourism in times to come. As per the information available from States/UTs, the number of domestic tourist visits in India in 2006 was 462 million as compared to 392 million in 2005.

(c) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism, on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Special incentive scheme for budget hotels

1215. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any special incentive scheme to encourage budget hotels to boost tourism in the country in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the amount earmarked for such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has formulated a scheme, to provide incentive to hotels of 1 to 3 star and Heritage Basic categories all over the country where the hotels projects have been commissioned and classified w.e.f. 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008. The incentive will be in the form of capital subsidy of Rs.2.00 lakh per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 30.00 lakh to one star hotel, Rs. 3.00 lakh per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh to two star hotel, Rs. 3.00 lakh per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 100.00 lakh to three star and Heritage Basic category hotels.

The scheme is valid all over the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 20.00 crore have been earmarked for the financial year 2007-08.

Tourism related schemes

1216. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to carry out tourism related schemes, surveys, studies, plans, market research etc.;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme including the provision for financial assistance;

(c) whether any surveys, study, market research etc. has been carried out under the scheme for the State of Goa, exclusively or otherwise;

(d) the agencies which have carried out such work; and

(e) the details of financial assistance given to such agencies?